Lay by your Pleading, Law lies a-Bleeding.

Habak. 1. 4. *Nahum* 3. 7, 14, 18. *Rom.* 6. 1, 2, 3. O King, thy Shepherds ſlumber: Therefore the Law is ſlacked, and Judgment doth never go forth; for the Wicked doth compaſs about the Righteous. Bemoan her: Whence ſhall I ſeek Comforters? For they make ſtrong the Brick-Hills. Like Fig-Trees with the firſt ripe Figs; if they be ſhaken, they ſhall even fall into the Mouth of the Eater. What ſhall we ſay then? Shall we continue in Sin, That Grace may abound? *God* forbid. How ſhall we that are dead to Sin, live any longer? Know ye not that ſo many of us as were Baptized into *Jeſus Chriſt*, were Baptized into his Death? *Prov.* 15. 18, 19. The Heart of the Righteous ſtudieth to anſwer; but the Mouth of the Wicked poureth out evil things. *Job* 7. 11. Wherefore I will not refrain my Mouth; I will ſpeak. *Job* 42. 5. I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the Ears; but now mine Eye ſeeth. *Job* 12. 3, 4. But I have Underſtanding, as well as you; I am not inferior to you: Yea, who knoweth not ſuch things as theſe? I am as one mocked of his Neighbours, who calleth upon *God*. *Job* 20. 27. Doth not the Ear try Words, and the Mouth taſte his Meat? *Job* 24. 12. The Heaven ſhall reveal his Iniquity, and the Earth ſhall riſe up againſt him: Men groan from out of the City, and the Soul of the Wounded crieth out. *Revel.* 20. 4. *Matth.* 23. 31. *Jam.* 5. 4. *Revel.* 6. 20. For the Witneſs of them that were beheaded, crieth; and the Cries of them are entred into the Ears of the *Lord God* of Sabbath. And they cried with a loud Voice, ſaying, How long, O *Lord*, Holy and True, doeſt Thou not judge and avenge our Blood on them that dwell on the Earth? *Act.* 17. 6, 7. 1 *Sam.* 15. 23. Thoſe that have turn'd the World upſide down, are come hither alſo; and theſe all do contrary to the Decrees. For Rebellion is as the Sin of Witchcraft, and Stubbornneſs is as Iniquity. *Jude* 8. 10, 11, 16, 19. Theſe be they who ſeparate themſelves, ſenſual, having not the Spirit: Wo unto them; for they have gone in the way of *Cain*, and ran greedily after the Error of *Balaam* for Reward, and periſhed in the Gain-ſaying of *Core*. But theſe ſpeak evil of thoſe things which they know not; but what they know naturally, as brute Beaſts, in thoſe things they corrupt themſelves. Theſe are Murmurers, Complainers, walking after their own Luſts, and their Mouth ſpeaketh great ſwelling Words; having Men's Perſons in Admiration, becauſe of Advantage; deſpiſe Dominion, and ſpeak evil of Dignities. *Iſa.* 59. 7, 8. Their Feet run to Evil, and they make haſte to ſhed Innocent Blood: Whoſoever goeth therein, ſhall not know Peace. *Matth.* 11. 15. He that hath Ears to hear, let him hear. *Jam.* 2. 19, 20. Thou believeſt that there is one *God*, thou doeſt well; the Devils alſo believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain Man? *Job* 27. 11. I will teach you by the Hand of *God*; that which is with the *Almighty*, will I not conceal. *Job* 23. 5. *Job* 22. 4, 5, 6. I will know the Words which he would anſwer me, and what he will ſay unto me. Will he reprove thee for fear of thee? Is not thy Wickedneſs great, and thine Iniquity infinite? 1 *Sam.* 8. 7. For they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I ſhould not Reign over them. 2 *Pet.* 2. 17, 18, 19. Theſe are Wells without Water, Clouds that are carried with a Tempeſt; to whom the Miſt of Darkneſs is reſerved for ever: For when they ſpeak great ſwelling Words of Vanity, they allure them who live in Error:

While they promiſe them Liberty, they themſelves are the Servants of Corruption; for of whom a Man is overcome, of the ſame is he brought in bondage. *Matth.* 22. 29. *Matth.* 18. 7. Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the Power of *God*. Wo unto the World, becauſe of Offences; for it muſt needs be, that Offences come: But, wo to that Man, by whom the Offence cometh! *Gen.* 42. 21, 22. *Pſal.* 150. 15. *Pſal.* 12. 4. And they ſaid one to another, We are verily guilty concerning our Brother, in that we ſaw the Anguiſh of his Soul, when he beſought us, and we would not hear. Who have ſaid with our Tongue, We will prevail. Our Lips are our own; who is Lord over us? Therefore, behold, his Blood is required. Spake I not unto you, ſaying, Touch not my Anointed,, and do my Prophets no harm. *Matth.* 23. 30, 31, 32, 33. And they ſaid, If we had been in the Days of our Fathers, we would not have been Partakers with them in the Blood of the Prophets: Wherefore, ye be Witneſſes unto your ſelves, that ye are the Children of them which killed the Prophets: Fill ye up then the Meaſure of your Fathers. Ye Serpents, ye Generation of Vipers; How can ye eſcape the Damnation of Hell? *Jam.* 5. 6. *Jam.* 2. 13. Ye have condemned and killed the Juſt, and he doth not reſiſt you. For he ſhall have Judgment without Mercy, that hath ſhewed no Mercy: And Mercy rejoyceth againſt Judgment. *Act.* 8. 21, 22, 23. Repent therefore of this thy Wickedneſs, and pray *God*, if perhaps the thought of thine Heart may be forgiven thee; for thy Heart is not right in the Sight of *God:* For I perceive, that thou art in the gall of Bitterneſs, and in the bond of Iniquity. 2 *Pet.* 3. 17, 18. Ye therefore, Beloved, ſeeing ye know theſe things, beware leſt ye alſo, being led away with the Error of the Wicked, ye fall from your own ſtedfaſtneſs: But grow in Grace, and in the Knowledge of our Lord and Saviour *Jeſus Chriſt*. 1 *John* 1. 6, 7. If we ſay, That we have Fellowſhip with him, and walk in Darkneſs, we lie, and do not the Truth: But if we walk in the Light, as he is in the Light, we have Fellowſhip with one another; and the Blood of *Jeſus Chriſt*, his Son, cleanſeth us from all Sin. 1 *Tim.* 5. 25. Likewiſe, alſo the good Works of ſome are manifeſt before-hand; and they that are otherwiſe, cannot be hid. 2 *Tim.* 3. 4, 5. Traytors, heady, high-minded; having a Form of Godlineſs, but denying the Power thereof: From ſuch turn away. *Prov.* 14. 4, 6. Where no Oxen are, the Crib is clean. A Scorner ſeeketh Wiſdom, and findeth it not; but Knowledge is eaſie unto him that underſtandeth. *Prov.* 6. 23. For the Commandment is a Lamp, and the Law is Light; and Reproofs of Inſtruction are the way of Life. *Prov.* 4. 25, 26, 27. Let thine Eyes look right on, and let thine Eye-lids look ſtraight before thee: Ponder the Path of thy Feet, and let all thy ways be eſtabliſhed. Turn not to the Right Hand, nor to the Left; remove thy Foot from Evil. *Prov.* 3. 21, 23. *Prov.* 18. 10. *Gen.* 19. 20. My Son, behold now, this City is near to flee unto it: Walk in thy way ſafely, and thy Foot ſhall not ſtumble. The Name of the *Lord* is a Strong Tower; the Righteous runneth into it, and is ſafe. *Joh.* 15. 3, 4. Now, ye are clean, through the Word which I have ſpoken unto you. As the Branch cannot bear Fruit of it ſelf, except it abide in the Vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. If a Man abide not in me, he is caſt forth as a Branch, and is withered; and Men gather them, and caſt them into the Fire, and they are burned. *Matth.* 14. 13. *Luk.* 17. 32. *Luk.* 9. 44. But he that ſhall endure unto the End, the ſame ſhall be ſaved. Remember *Lot*'s Wife. Let theſe Sayings ſink down into your Ears. *Luk.* 21. 36. Watch ye therefore, and and Pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to eſcape all theſe things that ſhall come to paſs; and to ſtand before the Son of Man. 2 *Cor.* 5. 7. For we walk by Faith, not by Sight. 2 *Cor.* 6. 3. 2 *Cor.* 8. 12, 21. Giving no Offence in any thing, that the Miniſtry be not blamed. Providing for honeſt things, not only in the Sight of the *Lord*, but alſo in the Sight of Men: For if there be firſt a willing Mind, it is accepted. 2 *Cor.* 2. 14, 15. Whereunto he called you by our Goſpel; therefore, Brethren, ſtand faſt, and hold. 2 *Tim.* 1. 12. For the which cauſe, I alſo ſuffer theſe things; nevertheleſs I am not aſhamed: For I know whom I have believed; and I am perſwaded, that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him, againſt that Day. *Iſa.* 54. 4, 5, 6, 8, 10. 2 *Cor.* 6. 2. Fear not, for thou ſhalt not be aſhamed; neither be thou confounded, for thou ſhalt not be put to ſhame: For thou ſhalt forget the ſhame of thy Youth, and ſhalt not remember the Reproach of thy Widow-hood any more: For thy Maker is thine Husband; the *Lord of Hoſts* is his Name. For the *Lord* hath called thee as a VVoman forſaken, and grieved in Spirit. For the Mountains ſhall depart, and the Hills be removed; but my Kindneſs ſhall not depart from thee. In a little VVrath I hid my Face from thee, for a moment; but with everlaſting Kindneſs will I have Mercy on thee, ſaith the *Lord* thy Redeemer.

For

For he ſaith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the Day of Salvation have I ſuccoured thee. Behold, now is the accepted Time; behold, now is the Day of Salvation. *Iſa.* 51. 12. I, even I, am he that comforteth you. VVho art thou, that thou ſhould'ſt be afraid of Man, that ſhall die; and of the Son of Man, that ſhall be made as Graſs? 2 *Tim.* 6. 18. And the *Lord* ſhall deliver me from every evil VVork, and will preſerve me to his Heavenly Kingdom. 1 *John* 3. 22. And whatſoever we ask, we receive of him; becauſe we keep his Commandments, and do thoſe things that are pleaſing in his Sight. *Pſal.* 57. 2, 3. I will cry unto *God* moſt high, unto *God* that performeth all theſe things for me; He ſhall ſend from Heaven, and ſave me from the Reproach of him that would ſwallow me up. *God* ſhall ſend forth his Mercy, and his Truth. I have choſen the way of Truth. Thy Teſtimonies alſo are my Delight, and my Counſellors: O how I love thy Law! It is my Meditation all the Day. *Pſal.* 119. 84, 85, 86. How many are the Days of thy Servant? VVhen wilt thou execute Judgment on them that perſecute me? The Proud have digged Pits for me, which are not after thy Law. All thy Commandments are faithful. They perſecute me wrongfully, help thou me. *Gal.* 1. 12, 13. *Pſal.* 119. 112. I have not departed from thy Judgments; for thou haſt taught me: for I neither received it of Men, neither was I taught it, but by the Revelation of *Jeſus Chriſt*. For ye have heard of my Converſation in time paſt. *Gal.* 3. 7, 9. Know ye therefore, that they which are of Faith, the ſame are the Children of *Abraham*: So then, they which be of Faith, are bleſſed with Faithful *Abraham*. *Gal.* 6. 9. And let us not be weary in well-doing; for, in due Seaſon, we ſhall reap, if we faint not. *Epheſ.* 5. 14. VVherefore he ſaith, Awake thou that ſleepeſt, and ariſe from the Dead, and *Chriſt* ſhall give thee Light. 1 *Cor.* 5. 6, 7. For they that ſleep, ſleep in the Night; and they that be drunken, are drunken in the Night: Therefore, let us not ſleep as do others; but let us watch, and be ſober. *Col.* 4. 3, 4. *Col.* 2. 5, 6. *Philip.* 3. 18, 19, 20. *Philip.* 1. 18. VVithal, Praying alſo for us, That *God* would open unto us a Door of Utterance, to ſpeak the Myſtery of *Chriſt*; for which I am alſo in Bonds, that I may make it manifeſt, as I ought to ſpeak. For though I be abſent in the Fleſh; yet am I with you in the Spirit, joying and beholding your Order, and the ſtedfaſtneſs of your Faith in *Chriſt*: For many walk, of whom I have told you, and now tell you even weeping, That they are the Enemies of the Croſs of *Chriſt*. As ye have therefore received *Chriſt Jeſus* the Lord; ſo walk ye in him, rooted and built up in him with Thankſgiving. 2 *Cor.* 2. 14. 1 *Cor.* 11. 13, 14, 17. Judge in your ſelves. Doth not even Nature it ſelf teach you, in this that I declare unto you. Now, Thanks be unto *God*, which always cauſes us to triumph in *Chriſt*, and maketh manifeſt the Favour of his Knowledge by us in every place. *Haggai* 1. 5, 6, 9, 10. Now therefore, thus ſaith the *Lord* of Hoſts, Conſider your ways: Ye have ſown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye cloath you, but there is none warm: and he that earneth VVages, earneth VVages to put in a bag with holes. Thus ſaith the *Lord*, Conſider your ways: Ye looked for much, and lo! it came to little; therefore the Heaven over you is ſtayed. *Zephan.* 1. 14. The Great Day of the *Lord* is near; it is near, and haſteth greatly. *Prov.* 21. 13. VVhoſo ſtoppeth his Ears at the Cry of the Poor, he alſo ſhall cry himſelf, but ſhall not be heard. *Prov.* 2. 17. Bread of Deceit is ſweet to a Man; but afterwards his Mouth ſhall be filled with Gravel. *Prov.* 2. 3. *Prov.* 15. 10. It is an Honour for a Man to ceaſe from Strife; but every Fool will be medling. Correction is grievous unto him that forſaketh the way; and he that hateth Reproof, ſhall die. *Prov.* 1. 26, 28, 29. I alſo will laugh at your Calamity; I will mock, when your Deſtruction cometh: Then ſhall they call upon me, but I will not anſwer; they ſhall ſeek me early, but they ſhall not find me: for that they hated Knowledge, and did not chooſe the Fear of the *Lord*. *Iſa.* 29. 16. Surely, your turning of things upſide down, ſhall be eſteemed as the Potter's Clay. *Iſa.* 59. 4, 5, 6. They hatch *Cockatrice* Eggs; their VVebs ſhall not become Garments: None calleth for Juſtice; not any pleadeth for Truth: They truſt in Vanity, and ſpeak Lies; they conceive Miſchief, and bring forth Iniquity. *Iſa.* 5. 2, 3, 4. VVherefore art thou red in thine Apparel; for I will tread them in mine Anger, and trample them in my Fury; for the Day of Vengeance is come? *Jer.* 7. 18, 19. The Children gather the VVood, and the Fathers kindle the Fire. Do they provoke me to Anger, ſaith the *Lord?* Do they not provoke themſelves, to the Confuſion of their own Faces? *Matth.* 3. 11, 12. *Revel.* 19. 20. Theſe both ſhall be caſt into a Lake of Fire, burning with Brimſtone. But he will burn up the Chaff with unquenchable fire. *John* 6. 63. It is the Spirit that quickeneth, the Fleſh profiteth nothing. The words which I ſpeak unto you,

they

they are Spirit, and they are Life. *Pſal.* 5. 11. *Col.* 4. 4. *Pſal.* 1. 19. But let all thoſe that put their truſt in thee, rejoyce; let them ſhout for joy, becauſe thou defendeſt them. Let them alſo, that love thy Name, be joyful in thee. Rejoyce in the Lord alway, and again, I ſay, Rejoyce. *Iſa.* 52. 6, 7. How beautiful are the feet of him that bringeth good Tydings, that publiſheth Peace, that bringeth good Tydings of Good, that publiſheth Salvation; that ſaith unto *Zion*, Thy *God* Reigneth; therefore my People ſhall know, that I am he that doth ſpeak; Behold, it is I, ſaith the Lord *God* Almighty? 1 *Theſſ.* 5. 24. Faithful is he that calleth you; who alſo will do it. *Phile.* 1. 9. *Gal.* 6. 5, 17. 1 *Theſſ.* 5. 25. Yet for Love-ſake, Brethren, being ſuch an one as *Paul*, and alſo a Priſoner of *Jeſus Chriſt*, pray for us. Henceforth let no Man trouble me; for I bear in my Body the Marks of the Lord *Jeſus*. 1 *Tim.* 4. 13, 14, 15. *Revel.* 3. 11. 1 *Tim.* 6. 15. *Heb.* 12. 12, 14. *Revel.* 1. 7. *Revel.* 12. 12. *Iſa.* 55. 3, 4. *Revel.* 2. 2, 3, 15. *Iſa.* 66. 9. 1 *John* 2. 27. Neglect not the Gift that is in thee. Behold, I come quickly; hold that faſt which thou haſt, that no Man take thy Crown. Meditate upon theſe things; give thy ſelf wholly to them till I come; give Attendance. I know thy Works, and thy Labour, and thy Patience. For my Name's ſake thou haſt laboured, and haſt not fainted; hold faſt, till I come. Which in his time he ſhall ſhew, who is the Bleſſed, and only Potentate, the King of Kings. 2 *Cor.* 4. 16. For which cauſe we faint not; but though our outward Man periſh, yet the inward Man is renewed day by day. Wherefore lift up the Hands which hang down, and the feeble Knees. Follow Peace with all Men, and Holineſs, without which no Man ſhall ſee the *Lord*. Behold, he cometh with Clouds; therefore, rejoyce ye Heavens, and ye that dwell in them; incline your Ear, and come unto me. Behold, I have given him for a Witneſs unto the People. But the Anointing which ye have received of him, abideth in you, and ye need not that any Man teach you; but as the ſame Anointing teacheth you of all things, and is Truth, and is no Lie, and even as it hath taught you, and ye ſhall abide in him. *Iſa.* 66. 9. Shall I bring to the Birth, and not cauſe to bring forth, ſaith the *Lord?* *Matth.* 10. 26. For there is nothing covered, that ſhall not be revealed; and hid, that ſhall not be known.

By the Servant of the Lord,

JAMES RICHARDS.

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44.

What thou foretaw it of *March* the fifteenth last;
When ſwift and ſudden as the Angels flye,
Th' Declaration for Conſcience-Liberty;
When things of Heaven burſt from the Royal Breaſt,
More fragrant than the Spices of the Eaſt.
I know in next years Almanack thou'lt write,
Thou ſaw'ſt the King and Council over-night,
Before that morn, all ſit in Heaven as plain
To be diſcern'd, as if 'twere *Charles's Waine*,
Great *B*, great *L*, and two great *AA's* were chief,
Under Great *CHARLES* to give poor *Fan's* relief:
Thou ſaweſt Lord *Arlington* ordain the man
To be the firſt Lay-Metropolitan.
Thou ſaw'ſt him give induction to a *Spittle*,